(b) Draught animals generally produce milk in quantities sufficient only for their offspring. Output from draught animals in terms of milk, work, dung, fibre, meat, skin are not estimated separately.

(c) Some of the animal species are reared in the country exclusively for meat purposes. Preventing their slaughter is not contemplated at this stage. However, several State Government enacted legislation relating to prevention of slaughter of cow and its progeny. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura as well as Union Territory of Lakshwadeep do not have any legislation in this regard. The Supreme Court has observed in various cases that (i) a total ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks is ultra-virus the Constitution and (ii) an absolute ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks is not necessary for complaying with Article 48 of the Constitution. Besides these legislative actions, a number of schemes are implemented by the Union Government as well as State Governments to preserve and develop indigenous animal genetic resources.

Refinance facilities to farmers in Maharashtra

1278. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve the refinance facility to poor farmers of Maharashtra State for their crop productions;

(b) whether Government are contemplating a new loaning policy for the Maharashtra State farmers;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be extended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facility to Commercial Banks, Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks for providing timely and adequate credit to the farmers for their crop production. Under die existing Crop Loan System of lending to the fanners, loans.are provided on the basis of scale of finance for different crops which are fixed after taking into account all the requirements *i.e.* cost of cultivation, variations in climatic conditions etc. In order to provide adequate credit to the farmers, domestic scheduled commercial banks are required to lend 18% of net bank credit to agriculture sector.

For ensuing the flow of timely and adequate credit to the farmers in the country including Maharashtra, a number of steps have been taken as indicated below:—

— Most of the recommendations of High Level Committee (R.V. Gupta Committee) on agricultural credit which include simplification of procedures, greater flexibility and discreation to banks in the matter of collateral/margin security, dispensing with "No Dues Certificate", cash disbursement of loans, introduction of new loan products with savings component etc. have been implemented;

— Extension of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit needs of farmers;

— Introduction of Kisan Credit Cards aimed at providing timely and adequate credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs;

— Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of high tech agricultural projects.

(b) to (d) No Sir. All the policy initiatives taken by RBI/NABARD are applicable to all the States including Maharashtra.

Production of Fruits/Vegetables in Garhwal Region

† 1279. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are unlimited prospects for the productions of fruits and vegetables in the Garhwal region in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that people have made horticulture gardens at higher places in Uttar-kashi, Chamoli, Tihri and Pauri districts;

(c) whether it is'also a fact that hilly horticulture garden of Asian level is situated at "Bharsar" in Gairsain tehsil in Chamoli district; and

(d) whether Government will select one of these districts under the scheme "Integrated Development of Horticulture", if so, by when, if not the reason therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.